

Remarks/Arguments

In the Office Action of November 2, 2005, Claims 1-7, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over International Patent Publication WO 99/03323 to Wiegert (hereinafter "Wiegert"), in view of US Patent 2,777,267 to Thompson (hereinafter "Thompson") and Great Britain Patent GB2012154 to Pottinger (hereinafter "Pottinger").

Independent claims 1, 2 and 20 have been amended to require that the "picking device is provided with an inlet, the inlet being located in front of the vertical axis of the feeding device." This subject matter was previously provided in claim 10, and therefore no additional search is believed to be necessary.

The Examiner objected to claim 8 and claims 9-13, 15 and 17-19 dependent thereon, stating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant has rewritten them in independent form.

All the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance, early notification of which is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due for this amendment. Furthermore, since the amendment has been filed within two months of the date of the final office action (plus 1 day since January 2 was a federal holiday) we welcome the Examiner's advisory action regarding the amendments made herein.

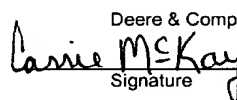
Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present communication may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully


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